

Christmas is Coming!

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We've reached the final upload of the year, with Christmas a little over a week away and the New Year just around the corner. It seems that this is the feeling every year, in that we are left wondering where the entirety of the year that was has gone. We'll have a couple temporal-themed items when our first upload of 2024 goes live (*on the day after New Year's*), but for the present upload, it seems rather appropriate to begin with a medal with a distinctly religious theme—that of Noah's Ark...



This small medal likely points to a desired end to the famine experienced at the time in the region of Silesia. Given the eventual end of the biblical rains after 40 days, a similar cessation to the hardships was likely front of mind and greatly desired. The Ark is presented on the obverse, while Silesian worshippers are in prayer on the reverse—a rainbow over their heads and a tiny ark atop a hill (an allusion to Mt. Ararat) is at a distance.

Moving on to those who have quite possibly made Santa's naughty list, here is another example of the Bohemian art plaque entitled *Temptation*...



We had one of these in bronze earlier in the month, with this particular example being in aluminum and on an oversized planchet meant as a trial strike by the Kremnica mint. Always a provocative design, it certainly stands out given its early 20th century period of manufacture.

Speaking of provocative, there's this extremely interesting modern art medal from the great Finnish sculptor/engraver, Kauko Räsänen...



This multi piece bronze medal can be taken apart, with the larger two pieces seemingly giving birth to the third, much smaller medal. We definitely recommend viewing the video on the item's page to see exactly how this three-piece medal fits together. Räsänen created it in honor of 1975 serving as International Women's Year by the United Nations.

Staying with the idea of highly intriguing modern art designs, as well as the couple from above that may be on Santa's naughty list, here is an example of the lump of coal that may make its way to one of their stockings...



Our bad, that isn't a lump of coal, but actually a lump of...well...it's meant to be a cow flop. Designed in 1984 by Nicola d'Alton Moss during a workshop at Penn State, it features a very whimsical cow on the obverse, with this extremely tactile poo, complete with a horse fly resting at the center, as the reverse. Though a issue number is not known, similar works within the British Art Medal Society (BAMS) series generally number only a dozen or in the dozens. As such, it would not be surprising if a dozen or less of this hefty medal were made, attesting to its rarity.

Lastly, we have another example of the highly popular Crystal Palace medal that was made to commemorate its removal and reopening in Sydenham in South London...



Graded PCGS SP-61, it presents an obverse where one can easily see an extravagant Christmas tree placed in the background, with all of the Victorian flair that would undoubtedly go around it. The crossover appeal for this piece has always been the fact that it was erroneously included in the “so-called Dollar” reference book by the authors, Hibler & Kappen. Though it isn’t a so-called Dollar, this citation, as well as its classic artistry, make it eminently desirable.

For all of this upload’s new items, please click [here](#) or on the banner art below. As mentioned above, we will back again at the beginning of the year on January 2nd. Until then, we wish you the happiest of holidays and a prosperous New Year!



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